RAILWAY JOTTINGS.

THE traffic returns on the railways in the United Kingdom, during the first half of the present year, amounted to 4,477,000*l.*, and the number of miles open at the end of that period was 3,630, giving an average return of 1,169*l.* per mile. For the corresponding period of last year, the traffic returns amounted to 4,002,740*l.* and at the end of that time 3,150 miles were open, giving an average of 1,270*l.* per mile. Thus, while the mileage increased nearly 22 per cent., the traffic only increased 11·9 per cent.——The number of goods waggons belonging to the North-Western Railway Company, it is said, exceeds 11,500, and if these carriages be supposed to be worth only 50*l.* each, they represent a capital of nearly 600,000*l.*——James Weybury, the porter who ran a truck on the main line of the Great Western, at Shrivenham, in May last, at the moment the express train was on the eve of entering the station, has been indicted for the manslaughter of Edwin Wiltshire and others, but found 'not guilty.'——Mr. John Stephenson, the well-known contractor, died at Rotherham, on 8th instant.——The Chester and Holyhead line is to be opened throughout to Holyhead and Dublin on 1st August, with the exception of about 3¾ miles, adjoining the Menai Straits, where omnibuses will be run. ——The works connected with the high level bridge over the Tyne, and the junction of the terminus at Newcastle, are proceeding with great rapidity, under the hands of Messrs. Rush and Lawton, the contractors. The principal streets are already spanned with masonry, and the river-work of the bridge is assuming its position.

A WORD TO THE AUTHORITIES OF SAINT PANCRAS.

THERE is a prevalent report that the parochial authorities of the parish of Saint Pancras are about to build a residence for their clergyman, upon the space on the north side of their church in Euston-square.

It is not often that we find a church which can be seen to advantage, and it really seems to be an instance of bad taste in these gentlemen, if they seriously purpose encumbering, and concealing, and materially injuring the effect of a building which, with all its faults, is at least creditable to the parish, and to the architect who designed it. It is reported that the ground was intentionally left unconsecrated. I have an indistinct recollection of the circumstance, and that the then object of such an uncustomary course was the prevention of burying in it. It seems singular that such a site for a residence should even be in contemplation, while building-ground can be obtained within a short distance of the church.

X. Z.

Correspondence.

VENTILATION.

SIR,—Will one of your correspondents be good enough to inform me the best method of ventilating a billiard-room, the dimensions of which are 24 feet by 20 feet, and 11 feet high? The room will be placed on the first floor, and will have bed-rooms over. The door will be placed in the centre; and the room will be heated by a fire-place. A SUBSCRIBER.

VOTES FOR PUBLIC WORKS.—The following sums have been voted by Parliament for public works and educational establishments. 400,000*l.* for wages to artificers and labourers in the naval establishments at home; 300,000*l.* for repairs and new works in the naval establishments; 30,000*l.* for repairs of public buildings; 10,000*l.* towards the works at Buckingham Palace [Lord Morpeth made some observations in connection with this vote which shewed that our observations on the effect of the suspension of works had not passed unheeded]; 15,000*l.* towards the new Houses of Parliament; 3,000*l.* in aid of School of Design and provincial schools; 20,000*l.* for British Museum; 3,000*l.* for the Royal Society of Dublin.

Miscellanea.

THE THIRD REPORT OF THE METROPOLITAN SANITARY COMMISSION enters minutely into the circumstances attendant on the fever at Westminster, of which such *good* use was made by the supporters of the anti-clean-out party. After devoting to it as much time and labour as "might have sufficed to investigate the sanitary condition of a large mass of the population" of the metropolis, the commissioners report—That eight weeks elapsed between the emptying of the last cesspool and the first case of fever; a period which, according to the predominant medical testimony, puts out of the question that operation as an exciting cause of fever, even if it had not been performed by a method which produces incomparably less effluvia than any process heretofore known. That the type is one well known and recognised as prevalent for years past in that very locality and neighbourhood. That there has been a decided reduction, in place of an increase, in the sickness experienced, and throughout the district a less amount of sickness than previously. [So that matters would have actually been worse but for the very cleansing which was coolly blamed for doing all the mischief.] That the smell complained of probably arose from the emanations given off from a large cesspool which had never been cleaned at all, and which communicated with the whole line of a foul sewer passing directly under the school. That the course of the disease followed very exactly the line of this sewer, which communicates by direct openings with several of the houses where fever broke out, passes directly under the school and the dormitory, is in close proximity with nearly all the houses in which fever occurred, and is in so foul a state that the officers of the Metropolitan Sewers Commissioners, accustomed as they are to such examinations, were absolutely unable to proceed along it beyond a certain point, so that beyond that point it still remains unexplored. The commissioners, in considering the number of the metropolitan cesspools, and the extent of noxious matter requiring removal, on an estimate previously given in THE BUILDER, state that, so far from being excessive, that estimate is below the mark. The evaporating surface of the house-drainage and sewerage they estimate at three-fourths, and that of the cesspools at one-fourth, of the whole. From estimates of the cost of abolishing cesspools, and putting down impermeable house-drains, they say that the average expense of complete house-drainage would be about 4*s.* 6*d.* per house per annum, for a period of thirty years, and for the highest class of houses about 7*s.* 6*d.* per annum, which would be an average saving, on each of twenty-one houses mentioned, of more than 9*l.* a year. It has been a great mistake, they observe, to suppose that the duties of Courts of Sewers comprehend all that is essential to the public health while they exclude private drains and cesspools; and they impress upon the Legislature the urgent necessity of immediate measures for the improvement of the one and the abolition of the other.

RESTORATION OF ST. PAUL'S, BEDFORD.—The following is a statement of the tenders sent in to the churchwardens of St. Paul's Church, Bedford, for the restorations of the roofs of the nave:—

PLUMBERS' WORK.

	Cast.			Milled.		
Parker, Thrapston	£103	0	0	....		
W. Hinde, Bedford....	125	0	0	£145	0	0
Shepperd, Bedford	....			132	7	0
M. Hinde, Bedford ..	95	0	0	134	0	0
Carling, Bedford	108	12	6	128	5	0
Hall, London	190	0	0	215	0	0
Taylor, London	....			245	0	0

CARPENTERS' AND JOINERS.

	Restoration of Old Roofs.			New Roofs.		
Parker, Thrapston	517	0	0	1,203	0	0
Cobb and Reynolds, Bedford	450	0	0	933	0	0
Usher and Son, Blunham	710	0	0	750	0	0
Bryant and Son, Bedford	430	0	0	899	0	0

The contractors selected were, Michael Hinde for the plumbers' work, and Bryant and Son for the carpenters and joiners'. Messrs. Wing and Jackson are the architects.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders by 15th August, for the execution of the several artificers' works in the erection of the Marylebone baths and wash-houses; by 27th July for various works at the St. Olave's Union Workhouse; by 31st for the repair and alteration of four houses, and a range of stabling in the city; by 1st August for the erection of new store rooms at the Lambeth Workhouse; by 26th for the several works to be done in building a public-house at Great Grimsby; by 27th for the erection of a house and stabling at Girtford, near Biggleswade; by 1st August for the whole works in building a new church at Bilston, Stafford; by 28th July for completing the Town-hall, Birmingham; by 5th August for the various works to be done in the completion of the new Assize Courts, Liverpool; by 26th July for alterations and additions at Sudbury Union Workhouse; by 31st for the erection of warehouses of brick or timber, at the Bricklayers' Arms station; and by a date not specified for grates and ironmongery for the Training College, Caermarthen.

THE IRON AND COPPER TRADES.—The reduction of 20*s.* to 30*s.* a ton on iron, which followed so hard and so recusantly upon the prices fixed by 'the highest authorities' at the quarterly meetings held immediately before, has been fully recognized at the late quarterly reunion of the great masters, and the recusants were therefore justified in their refusal to abide by the quarterly dictum of their own colleagues, which is thus virtually acknowledged by the masters themselves to be, what we have so often upheld it to be,—a humbug and a snare. There now appears to be an awakening desire on the part of the metropolitan and other purchasers, however, to watch the state of the market, though not yet to purchase to any greater extent, from the fewer manufacturers at present in the market, than the closure of various large works under past pressure is alone sufficient to explain. That a revival in postponed railway works will ultimately raise present or future prices there appears to be no doubt, but even the most interested parties can at present only "hope that prices have touched their lowest point, at least for some time to come;" while "notices have been given to the men employed in several of the largest works in the district of South Staffordshire for a reduction of 20 per cent in their wages;" a fact which *ought* to indicate the predominance of fear rather than of hope. A wholesale reduction in the price of copper has been the subject of general conversation at Birmingham.

A PUBLIC MUSEUM AND LIBRARY AT WARRINGTON is in course of establishment, under the 8th and 9th Vict. c. 43; to which end it has been arranged to comprise two or three separate and more or less languishing or poorer societies in the one more vigorous institution, and to beat up for a public subscription to the amount of 600*l.* for a suitable building, *before* the authorized rate of ½*d.* per pound shall be exigible in November next. We are glad to find that, besides other objects befitting such a museum and the general literature appropriate to its library, the arts and sciences, and especially the fine arts, are to claim a share of attention, so that pictures, bronzes, statuary, and carvings, will be acceptable, and even approved plaster casts of forms in high art. An eye is also to be had to antiquities and objects in the useful arts and manufactures, models, &c. Annual subscriptions of not less than half a guinea entitle to certain privileges noted in the printed proposals issued from the town clerk's office by the honorary secretary.

THE CATHEDRAL CHAPTER-HOUSE, MANCHESTER.—The excavations at the foundation of the cathedral chapter-house, rendered necessary by the reconstruction of that portion of the edifice, have shewn that the moulding of the base course is some inches higher than that of the south aisle, to which it joins, and it is therefore thought to be of later date (as indeed is not unfrequently the case with collegiate and cathedral structures) but nothing further has been found at all bearing upon this interesting question: a more extended research into the foundations would undoubtedly throw some light upon the matter. The material of which both walls are built is the same,—the sand-stone from the Collyhurst quarries,—and but little difference can be perceived in the condition of the foundations. The church

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